

Quid Novi

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Quid Novi

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Editor's Note

Hi everyone,

Thanks to those of you who submitted this week!

As you will see from our cover, poor Dennis has suffered a terrible injury to his artistic hand. Please bear with us in the interim. Alternatively, you can send us your cover ideas. Just drop them off in the Quid mailbox at the LSA office by Friday at 5pm.

I hope you all had excellent holidays, and that nobody other than me was bedridden with the worst case of the flu of their adult life.

Like Becky, I have New Year's resolutions, though mine are nowhere nearly as witty as hers. My big one is to tell everybody how great they are.

And you guys are really great. I am happy to be back. I love being surrounded by such interesting, amusing and intelligent people. Please share your wit with the Quid.

Yours Truly,

Marta Juzwiak

A Call for “Fair and Reasonable” Grading

by Randy Kramer, Nat IV

I got a bad grade in *Employment Law*. The class average was a paltry 2.51, and 27 of the 49 students in the class (a whopping 55%) got a C+ or below.

How could this have occurred? How could a 4th year student with a strong average have been subjected to this? The class average was within the “normal” range, Associate Dean Provost told me. And thus the average did not raise any red flags with the Examination Board, a body that reports to Faculty Council at the “marks meeting”.

I asked Provost whether Maitre Thomas Davis (a first-time sessional lecturer) was asked to justify his *Employment Law* grade spread. Of course he was, right? Isn’t that what the marks meeting is for? I asked Provost what exactly happens at the marks meeting. Under what situations would the administration intervene to raise students’ grades? Since the class average was within the normal range, he said, the examiner was not asked to justify the average he gave. So nothing was done to protect over half of my classmates from having their hard-earned academic records soiled by what in my opinion were excessively harsh marks, marks that were not, when taken as a whole, fair and reasonable in relation to the marks students obtained in the vast majority of the other Fall 2001 courses.

I met with Davis last week. I don’t agree with the way he evaluated me. He seemed to have penalized me for doing things that I am normally rewarded for. For instance, he didn’t like the fact that I covered all the issues reasonably raised by a fact pattern he gave. He said I was too “imaginative”, and that that quality

did not serve me well on this particular exam.

There is no question in my mind that the standard applied to me on this final exam was quite different than the one that I have come to expect to be judged by. But I can’t totally blame him for my grade. This was his first time grading law school exams. He was told that the recommended range of grades for his class was 2.50-3.00, and he came within that range, albeit just by a hair, at 2.51.

The real problem here is the Faculty administration- they should have intervened to raise the grades. Provost told me that because the average was within the normal range, nothing could be done for me (save via the “review” procedure). He said that he can’t do anything that would deviate from the rules. Fine. I like it when people play by the rules. But what he didn’t tell me was that this Faculty routinely deviates from its internal grading ranges by allowing examiners to give averages over the appropriate range, sometimes way over. And the way I understood Professor Foster (co-chair of the Examination Board), the recommended range is 2.50 to 3.00 for classes of 30 or more that are evaluated by examination. The range is 2.50 to 3.20 for classes of under 30 or classes that are evaluated by essay. So even though the Faculty has guidelines on the range of averages that would be acceptable for a given class, it does not always follow them. But when I took issue with a 2.51 average, that acceptable range thing was thrown right at me. How unfair.

In the realm of larger-type classes evaluated by examination, 3.24 in *Business Associations* (57 students)

was the highest average last semester. Other high average classes include *Advanced Criminal Law* (3.18, 36 students), *Law of Persons* (3.14, 41), and *Labour Law* (3.13, 35). Many averages in smaller-type classes or classes evaluated by essay were even more outside the guideline-recommended range. Some of these classes include *Problems In Constitutional Law* (3.69, 8), *Policies, Politics, and The Legislative Process* (3.68, 17), *Business Organizations* (3.59, 8), *Theories of Justice* (3.58, 8), *Computers and The Law* (3.47, 14), *Comparative Legal Institutions* (3.44, 23), *Law and Psychiatry* (3.39, 26), and *Remedies* (3.39, 63).

Were examiners of any of these courses asked to justify these higher than “normal” averages? When I asked Professor Foster this question, he said that the marks meeting is a “closed” meeting, and that all grades were approved by Faculty Council. So I did not get an answer to that question, leaving me to wonder whether in fact examiners were asked to justify averages exceeding that range. There were, after all, quite a number of averages exceeding the recommended range. What is the likelihood that these examiners all actually justified their higher-than-normal averages? The answer to this is unfortunately left to one’s imagination.

I invite the Faculty to reveal whether examiners with averages outside the recommended range were asked to justify them at the marks meeting. And if they did justify them, how did they do so? I should be able to know why the same range that is being used to justify the *Employment Law* average is routinely being ignored in relation to other

classes.

What exactly goes on at a marks meeting anyway? Shouldn't the purpose of a marks meeting, already the most mysterious phenomenon in law school in my view, be to control the inherent subjectiveness of an individual examiner by bringing all class averages within a certain acceptable range? Isn't the marks meeting the place where my right to a fair and reasonable evaluation will be protected? I once thought so. Now I have serious doubts about that.

Moreover, I would guess that control over the quality of its marks was one of the main reasons that the Faculty recently adopted a policy of excluding a student's non-law marks from the calculation of law-related rankings and awards. The assumption that law students generally achieve higher non-law marks than law marks would seem to have played a role in the adoption of this policy. But yet the Faculty of Law itself regularly allows its own class averages to exceed its recommended ranges. With respect, part of the justification for the non-law marks policy seems to lose strength in the face of this reality.

I am not saying that the averages in these higher-than-normal range classes should be lowered to come within the recommended ranges. That would not be fair to students who were in those classes. Here's a suggestion: Since it permits higher-than-normal averages on a regular basis, the Faculty should raise the lowest average for classes of 30 or more evaluated by examination to be .50 less than the highest average for those types of classes. That would mean that Employment Law, the lowest average class in that group, would have its average raised to 2.74 (.50 below Business Associations (3.24)). Similarly, the smaller-type or essay class with the lowest average would be raised to 2.99, .70 below Problems In Constitutional Law (3.69).

I suggest this solution because I

believe that the Faculty has an obligation to keep its averages within a relatively narrow range of each other. This obligation flows from s. 12 of the McGill University *Charter of Students' Rights*, which reads as follows:

The evaluation of a student's performance in a course shall be fair and reasonable...

"Fair and reasonable". Can you

wrong with slight differences- they are inevitable. But what I cannot accept is what I perceive to be this Faculty's lack of control over those differences.

In my opinion, the Faculty has, by failing to abide by its own prescribed ranges and by permitting such an extreme range of class averages, violated my s. 12 McGill *Charter* right. I do not think that I am being evaluated fairly and reasonably in relation to colleagues of mine

fortunate enough to have been in classes with averages over the maximum recommended average. They got lucky. I didn't. I guess I should get rid of that ol' rabbit's foot. It doesn't work anymore.

I have never (until now) chosen courses because of the way an instructor tends to grade exams. I always thought that that was not a proper reason to take or not to take a course. But the stark truth is that in order to avoid running into unjustifiably poor grades, one has to pick one's instructors with the utmost of care. Students at this Faculty may not be able to take the courses they really want to take because the harsh or unknown marking style of an instructor may scare them away. This leads to "instructor-marking-pattern shopping", a very real phenomenon that may force students to forego taking a course they really want to take because of an instructor's grading history or lack thereof. This should not be the case, but it is.

This semester I am taking *Taxation* with Maitre Brian Bloom, a new sessional lecturer at this Faculty. Since I don't know his grading history, I am taking a huge risk. But this is my last semester and I really want to learn about taxation. Will I get lucky or will I get hit with another *Employment Law*-type bombshell? Since marking is at the "discretion of each examiner and changes will rarely be made in a colleague's marks" (Article 19, *Faculty of Law Examination Board Regulations*), I had better make the

What exactly goes on at the marks meeting anyway?

reconcile the fact that Maitre Davis gave 27 of his 49 *Employment Law* students a grade of C+ or below with the fact that none of the 17 students in *Policies, Politics and the Legislative Process* got a mark lower than B+? Why did an extraordinarily high number of people get a mark of A or A- in *Insurance*, but yet Professor Gendreau's *Intellectual and Industrial Property* class average was, as it has been at least as long as I have been at this Faculty, extremely low (2.54 last semester)?

Is there something extraordinarily difficult about *Employment Law* or *I and IP*? The evidence suggests not. The last time *Employment Law* was taught at the Faculty (Winter 2000), the average was 2.77. And Professors Lametti and Gold (both *I and IP* instructors) have had averages way above those consistently given by Professor Gendreau. So am I to conclude that Professor Gendreau just happens to get a relatively weak bunch of students year after year? Assuming not, why the striking difference between the averages given by Gendreau, on the one hand, and by Lametti or Gold, on the other? In my view, it just boils down to subjective differences in an examiner's marking style. There's nothing

right call. On the other hand, maybe I should have taken a class that I have no interest in because the instructor gave a really high, out of the normal range average last year. You have to learn to play the percentages, right?

In order to avoid this unsettling reality, the average for each class should be very similar. The University of Western Ontario Faculty of Law has a narrow average range prescribed for each class. Osgoode Hall Law School and The University of Ottawa Faculty of Law have similar systems in place. These policies help control extreme grading differences between examiners. Consistency between examiners is fostered. And the possibility that poor teaching will cause poor grades is reduced.

These schools all announce the existence of these policies in their respective Faculty Regulations- they are available on the Internet for everyone to see. Our Faculty has certain ranges in place, but I did not see them in the Faculty Regulations available to students. They are apparently internal and were unknown to me until they were sprung upon me in order to justify the *Employment Law* class average.

Internal policies. Closed meetings. Ranges not applied equally to all classes. With great respect, all of this detracts from the credibility of this Faculty's marking system.

Since Faculty class averages consistently exceed its recommended ranges, what is to stop averages from falling below the lowest point in a range? For bigger classes evaluated by examination, the highest average was .24 higher than the 3.0 maximum recommended average. Maybe this semester we'll see a large class with a 2.26 average, being .24 below the 2.5 minimum recommended average.

3.69 was one of the highest averages for smaller classes or classes evaluated by essay. The difference between that average and the maximum recommended average

of 3.20 is .49. What if an average was .49 less than 2.50- 2.02? If you were in a class that received that kind of average, would you want to know whether and how the examiner

Grievances to decide whether I have been evaluated in a fair and reasonable manner.

I have written this article with a special group of people in mind- those students who would like to speak up but whose voices are too timid to be heard. I know you're out there, and I know how hard it is for you to speak out against the Faculty's policies.

I invite comments from both students and Faculty members, whether or not those comments support my position. You can reach me by telephone at (514) 483-1869 or by e-mail at rskramer@sympatico.ca.

Thanks for taking the time to read this.

justified it? Would you be satisfied if you were told that you could not know this information because a marks meeting is a "closed" meeting of Faculty Council- i.e. not accessible to students? I sure wouldn't.

So now what? Where do I go from here? As of the time I write this, Associate Dean Provost has not been responsive to my arguments. However, I believe that it is highly improper for the Faculty to apply its class average ranges to some, but not all, of its classes. So I would like to again invite the Faculty administration to correct the unfairness by raising the averages in *Employment Law* and some other classes so that the difference between the top class average and the bottom class average of a given group of classes is separated by the recommended amount (.50 or .70, respectively). Another possible way to deal with the problem is to give those students in the affected classes the opportunity to receive a "Pass" on their transcript as opposed to a letter grade. I think that this latter suggestion is particularly useful because of the difficulties involved in deciding whose grades should get raised to bring up the class average.

If the Faculty is not amenable to this, I am left with no choice but to file a grievance against it. I do not want to have to go that route, but Provost's resistance has so far been so strong that I may be forced to apply to the McGill University Senate Committee on Student

Unofficial Grading Statistics

by Marta Juzwiak, Law III
Loyal & Dedicated VP Academic, LSA

Dear Fellow Students,

Several of you have approached me regarding grading, particularly the grading disparities between the courses last semester.

I am concerned about these disparities, as we ALL should be. If we must be graded, then we should be graded in a manner that represents our *performance*, not our ability to “prof shop.”

Before looking at these disparities, let’s consider the overall faculty average.

Grade	1 st yr midterms	All other exams	Essays	Total
A	20	47	51	118
A-	83	127	111	321
B+	181	334	123	638
B	182	352	69	603
B-	160	240	24	424
C+	98	127	8	233
C	28	60	4	92
D	30	19	0	49
F	12	8	1	21
TOTAL#	794	1314	391	2499

* While I cannot guarantee the absolute accuracy of the above numbers (I had to do the adding manually), I think they are fairly representative.

Average GPAs for:

1st year midterms: 2.86

All other exams: 2.96

Essays: 3.37

Average GPA for ALL grades: 2.996

Class averages for senior-level exam courses last semester ranged from 2.51 to 3.28.

For first-year courses, they ranged from 2.50 to 3.18.

For essay courses (I’m not counting individual term essays) the average ranged from 3.18 to 3.69.

What is the big deal, you might ask, if you have ONE course that involves an unusually low average? Well, let’s put this all in perspective.

To graduate with distinction, you need a 3.0

If the average numbers are roughly the same across all semesters, then the average student is just on the cusp of distinction. Suppose you are about to graduate, and your grades have been pretty close to this average. You had a 3.01 over 102 of your 105 credits. But, unfortunately for you, you took Employment Law instead of something with a normal average, and you got one of the 13 C+s in that class. You now have 3 credits valued at 2.3 grade-points each in addition to your 102 credits valued at a 3.01.

The math:

102 (credits) x 3.01 (GPA) = 307.02

3(credits) x 2.3 (GPA) = 6.9

Total grade-points: 313.92 over 105 credits.

Cumulative GPA over 105 credits: 2.989 → NO distinction.

Need I say more? One course CAN make a difference. One way to avoid a one-course disaster is to "prof shop." People can choose their courses based on their desire to avoid unusually low grades. If they are smart about it, they can likely ensure themselves a GPA about 0.2 higher than the GPA they would otherwise have gotten. A difference of 0.2 in the 2.8-3.2 range makes a significant difference in ranking. It's the difference between being in the middle, the top third, or the bottom third. What sounds better on a resume? Top 3rd or Top half?

I have learned that the faculty tells its new professors that grades at McGill normally fall between 2.5-3.0. As I have shown above, this statement is demonstrably untrue. Unfortunately, a new professor has no way of knowing that it is untrue. Smart prof shoppers will therefore stay away from new professors.

I don't like being compelled to prof shop based on grades. I want to choose professors based on their pedagogical talents, and I want courses that will help me in my future career. Grades shouldn't matter. But they do. And as long as they do, there is an obligation on the faculty to ensure that they are representative of a student's performance; they should represent more than a professor's whim.

I support Randy Kramer's efforts to compel the faculty administration to respond to the disproportionately low grades in Employment Law. I invite any students who also support him to contact him or to contact me about this matter (marta.juzwiak@mail.mcgill.ca). The inaccurate information provided to new professors regarding faculty grading, combined with the faculty's failure to adjust a grade spread that featured 55% of students receiving a C+ or less, warrants a response from students and faculty. I refuse to be silent.

SKIT NITE 2002

So, what does go through the head of an average law student?

**Take a ride on the
Mind-trip
Call for Skits:**

let the actor, singer and dancer out
of that cooped up, overloaded head of yours;

deadline: February 15, 2002 5pm (no exceptions)

Pick up a 'Skit Submission Form' from the Skit Nite mailbox in the LSA Office and put it back in the box or give it to Jeff Feiner or Lawna Hurl before the deadline.

New this Year: the '**best skit**' award – this aptly named award will be given to the all round best skit at this year's show, to be decided on by a panel of celebrity and attractive judges.

Those interested in singing in the choir or playing in the band, email your name to skitnite@lsa.lan.mcgill.ca.

Our Man in Amsterdam

by Jeremy Waiser, Law III

Amsterdam in Winter is not known for sun. Though it shines brightly out my window in seat 22A a half hour from the city, all I can see far below are endless clouds. They look like a giant bowl of vanilla ice-cream, half lumps, half melted. As we drop down into the bowl, I kiss the sun goodbye.

On the ground, I decide I have too many bags to tram it and head for the taxi stand. Four men are chatting and smoking next to a row of Mercedes cabs. "Excuse me", I say to one of them. "How much would it be from here to the Vrije University?" He looks at me, takes a puff of his cigarette, and says something in Dutch to his pals. They all laugh heartily. Wonderful. "About 30 Euros", he says. I pretend to ponder the merits of the answer. "30 Euros, hmmm..." I do my best brow-furrow, 'I'm a well-travelled, not-to-be-taken-lightly man' look. But these guys know a sucker when they see one. For all I know, 5 Euros may be the going-rate. I don't even know what a Euro is worth.

After arriving at what will be my residence for the next 4 months and discovering I have been soundly ripped off by the cabbie, I am shown to my room. The Ritz it ain't. My room is 2 metres by 4 metres (everything here is metric). The bed is slightly smaller than a single. The mattress is slightly thicker than the plywood it rests on. The shared bathrooms and showers are down the hall. Toiler paper and soap not included, I'm afraid.

At least the bed is long enough. Has to be - Dutch people are ridiculously tall. Ridiculously. My first day at school five girls get in the elevator with me and I'm the second shortest. This has caused me to wonder why such tall people would

make their bathrooms so damn small. Let me describe them for you.

Using the Dutch toilet requires strategy. Go in guns blazing without a plan and you're finished. Sound preparation begins before entering the "water closet." There's not actually enough room to go in, close the door, remove your pants, and continue. You're best off approaching the toilet, turning around, dropping your pants and then finding some way to hook the door closed. Once fixed inside, the door looms omi-

"One hand washes the other" does not come from Amsterdam. This we know because there's only enough room for one hand in the sink. Washing your hands thus comes to resemble a series of rapid Karate-chop motions in and out of the tiny stream of water.

All public sinks, by the way, only feature one tap for water: cold. The sink in my dorm room features the opposite problem. There are two taps, but only the hot water one works. Once the water runs for

anything longer than 7 seconds it is too hot to touch. Basically, I just let the toothpaste dissolve in my mouth as I fall asleep.

So far I've been lucky enough to wake up to several days of glorious sunshine. On these days, Amsterdam brightens and makes for terrific walking

around. It's really a gorgeous place. Countless canals weave through the downtown core. Each is lined with thin brown brick houses squished together over cobblestone streets. Gingerbread lane, everywhere you look. And there are plenty of cool little cafes and restaurants to check out.

I've taken up with a small group of Brits and we pass a Sunday afternoon in one such cafe overlooking the cross of two canals. Georgie (female), from London, reads the Times. Phil, the Welshman, is reading the Independent and makes intermittent outraged comments concerning the controversial coach of Cardiff's football club (who wants to burn an English flag at midfield to rile up the Scottish fans). Lindsay, the Scot, who had too much Sherry the night before, is just concentrating on breathing. Georgie recommends tea for both. Whatever the nature of your calamity, tea is always the English solution.

Nearby are 6 Dutch twenty-somethings. 3 men, 3 women. All

Using dutch toilets requires strategy. Go in guns blazing without a plan and you're finished.

nously close to your face. You may choose to proceed with your chin resting on you knees, or else assume the traditional Sumo stance, legs out wide to the side.

Then there's the toilet itself. The crack squad of engineers who set the standard design for Dutch toilets felt inclined, for reasons unknown, to build the bowl with two levels; a shrunken basin in front and below (where the water is), and a larger plateau level in back above. I have no idea what possible mechanical or environmental benefit this "observation deck" provides, but I do know the benefits are overwhelmingly outweighed by the detriment. [Editor's note: I think the observation deck is there to reduce splash, actually, though poo-inspectors benefit incidentally from the design] Once you've managed to get out of the actual room with the toilet, you now have the pleasure of washing your hands in the equally small area that houses the sink. Dealing with the sink is no picnic. The saying

attractive. That's another thing about the Dutch. They're hot. They look like they're the product of a 500-year cheekbone breeding experiment. At the table of the ones near us, I count four cell phones on the table. The others must have theirs in their pockets. Everyone in Amsterdam has a cell phone. It's a must. There's an unwritten motto here - a friend without a cell phone is not a friend. To our right is your standard Dutch couple and kids. Mom and Dad order sandwiches that contain only tomatoes and cheese. They feed their baby

daughter the Dutch equivalent of Gerber's. She delights in her own reflection in a mirror. The 3 or 4 year old son sits in his father's lap enjoying his chocolate on chocolate cake, the part he manages to get in his mouth anyway.

You know those beige-tartan check, wanna-be Burberry's scarves? Both parents are wearing them. These scarves are everywhere. Half the people on the street are wearing them and the rest, no doubt, have one at home in a place of honour. You can't be Dutch and not have a beige-tartan

check, wanna-be Burberry's scarf. A friend without a beige-tartan check wanna-be Burberry's scarf is not a friend.

We step out of the cafe and catch the number 5 tram home. Jerrod, my American friend who skips out on the cafe to go to one of the infamous mixed naked Dutch saunas, raves about the experience the next day. He informs me that I have to try it. I just can't leave Amsterdam without going to one. Maybe I'll check it out. Keep you posted.

Bridget Jones Goes to Law School

by V. Henderson, Esq. & N. Lachance, Nat IV

Thursday 17 January 2002

133 lbs. (weight gain owing to Hermia's new bakeware collection), alcohol units 5 (am miserable drunken spinster), minutes spent contemplating future career as non-lawyer 879 (must improve), casebooks purchased for new term courses 0 (so cases read effectively 0).

Feeling sudden onset of quarter-life crisis, as described in *The Career Woman Juggles Work and Personal Life: Accepting Mediocrity in Both Areas by Your Mid-Twenties*. Nearing end of eight-year university career, and paralyzed by prospect of spending next thirty-five years practising law as well-heeled wage slave in stifling (though air-conditioned and fashionably decorated) corporate legal hole. I mean, honestly. Cannot fathom hauling exhausted self out of bed every morning at six o'clock and spending remaining waking hours of day discussing bills with clients and drafting cease and desist letters.

Recent epiphany occurred sometime last week in mountainous region of southern Italy, where happily found self reunited with big, brawny, gorgeous, well-muscled, sporty-red Fiat-driving summer bf of youth.

Career Woman Juggles Work and

Personal Life suggests ruminating over mediocrity-accepting future goals. For example, is not inconceivable that could perhaps consider abandoning eventual high-powered legal career in favor of career as Italian homemaker, and could just collect allowance from big strong ostrich-farmer husband, do grocery shopping in town, sunbathe and eat gelato, and of course spend larger part of every day preparing beautiful savory meals for big strong earth-working husband.

Hermia: "Are you out of your mind?!? *Career Woman Juggles Work and Personal Life* is a characteristic example of bonfire-worthy drivel churned out by paternalistic publishing companies in authoritarian attempt to prey on insecurities of women and persuade them that 'cocooning trend' must be followed or else despair and failure in work and personal life are virtually impending. Hmph."

Bosom friend Hermia has apparently strengthened feminist resolve after having received bundt cake pan as twenty-fifth birthday gift from misguided (though well-intentioned) firm-buttoxed management-side labour lawyer bf. Lillian, on the other hand, spends so many hours at top Boston firm that she completely missed inanity of my potential non-

career plans, her curiosity piqued instead by romantic aspect of winter holiday.

Lillian: "So Bridget, did you finally give in to the drawn-out-since-adolescence passion?"

Self: "In a Fiat hatchback? Please. I went to finishing school."

Hermia: "I absolutely forbid you to forgo a career with an excellent law firm in order to spend your time harvesting olives. By falling into paternalistic 'cocooning' trap, you set yourself up for disaster in scenario where well-muscled ostrich farmer, heaven forbid, suffers accidental loss of limb, say, making ostrich sausages. You are then left entirely without safety net in remote mountainous region trying to navigate the vagaries of the Italian unemployment assistance program."

Hermia always offers sensible advice based on realistic fact scenarios. Career in law really best way to go. Must really move lens of focus away from recent cast of boyfriends and rather consider wealth of possibilities opened up by legal career. Or perhaps will borrow Hermia's new bundt pan and make sour cream coffee cake with chocolate ganache.

* With apologies to Helen Fielding.

Pino & Matteo's Salad-Bar Line Powers Chico Resch to Victory

by Stephen Panunto, Law II

Late (very late in fact) two Friday nights ago, Law's very own Chico Resch bounced the MBA faculty's Blank Cheques by posting a 3-1 victory despite playing with a depleted lineup. The short bench, whether due to an 11:30pm (!) starting time, Bar school studies, Law Games hangovers or otherwise, was enough considering the return of their starting goalie, which seemed to inspire Chico Resch to victory (the team is named after a goaltender, after all).

Especially impressive was the "Vegan line", made up of Dinesh Melwani, Dave Dixter and "Captain Cam", Keith Cameron. These three veggie-lovers must have been inspired by Pino & Matteos' post-Christmas introduction of a salad bar, as each member of the line had a goal and two assists. So impressive were they, that **Dinesh** earned an **honourable mention** next to **Dixter's third star** selection, while **Cam** was named the game's **second star**. The work of this all-vegetarian trio even makes committed carnivores (like your's truly) think twice about trying out Pino & Matteo's new salad bar experience. Not that goaltenders have ever been known to

be superstitious, but whatever brings a win is worth a try!

The defensive efforts of this two-way unit must also be acknowledged: even if they were on for the opposition's only goal, it should be pointed out that the Captain lead by example and threw his body in front of the rising point shot that somehow found its way into the net, thereby finally breaking the shut-out bid midway through the last period.

Short so many players, Chico played the entire game with only two forward lines, but they were well balanced – one scoring line, and one "checking" line. The second line played its defensive role well, not allowing any goals, and not scoring any goals. It had a couple of golden opportunities to break the game wide open, though. Greg "Hands Like Odjick" Webber managed to skate unhindered past the opponents defense late in the first period, only to have the five-hole slammed shut by the MBA goalie. Again, with time winding down in the third, Webber again split the defense and went one-on-one with the goalie. Again, however, the backstop made a sprawling save to deny Webber a goal. (Maybe if he had tried Pino's salad bar....)

Special merit must go to the

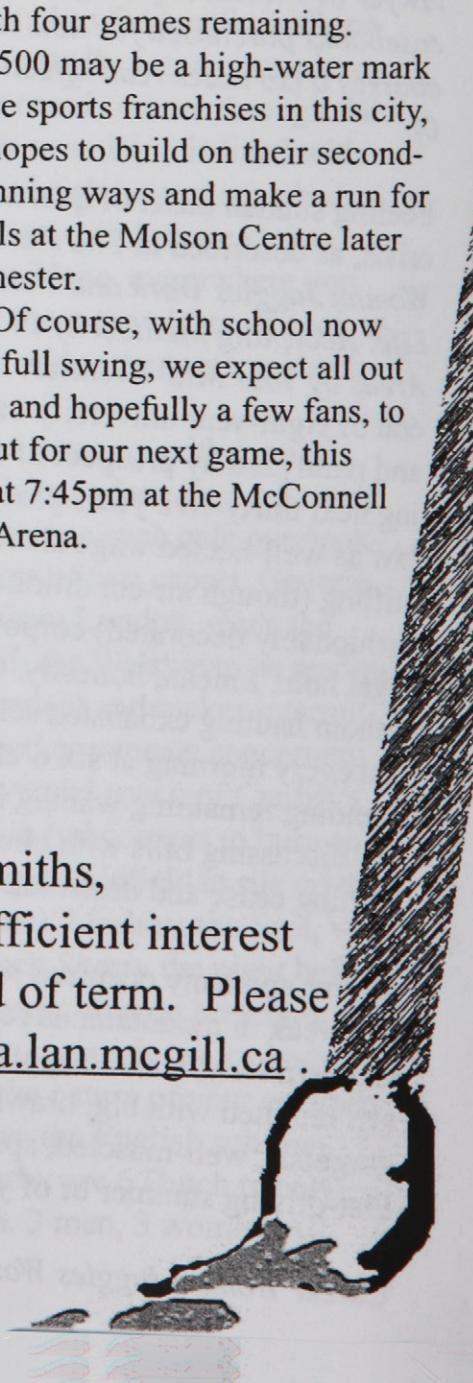
three defensemen who played the entire game – Jason, Adam and Greg – who kept the scoring chances to a minimum, cleared the slot with gusto and started the transition game in their own end. The play of these defensemen made their goaltender look good, so good that he (well, I) earned the **first star selection**. (Since I am writing the article, I will mention that I did make one Hasekian-like save with an outstretched arm while protecting a one goal lead.)

Perhaps most impressive of all was the way Chico managed to avoid the penalty box until the very last minutes of the game. Only one penalty – and a chincy call at that, as Don Cherry would say. But Chico held on despite ending the game shorthanded, evening their record at 4-4, with four games remaining. While .500 may be a high-water mark for some sports franchises in this city, Chico hopes to build on their second-half winning ways and make a run for the finals at the Molson Centre later this semester.

Of course, with school now back in full swing, we expect all out players, and hopefully a few fans, to come out for our next game, this Friday at 7:45pm at the McConnell Winter Arena.

Attention Artists!

Calling all painters, photographers, sculptors, designers, metalsmiths, craftspeople — and anyone else with an arty bent. If there is sufficient interest I'd like to organize an arts show at the law school before the end of term. Please contact me either by phone 954 1775 or by email: prabhum@lsa.lan.mcgill.ca. (Maya Prabhu, LLB3).



Chess Corner

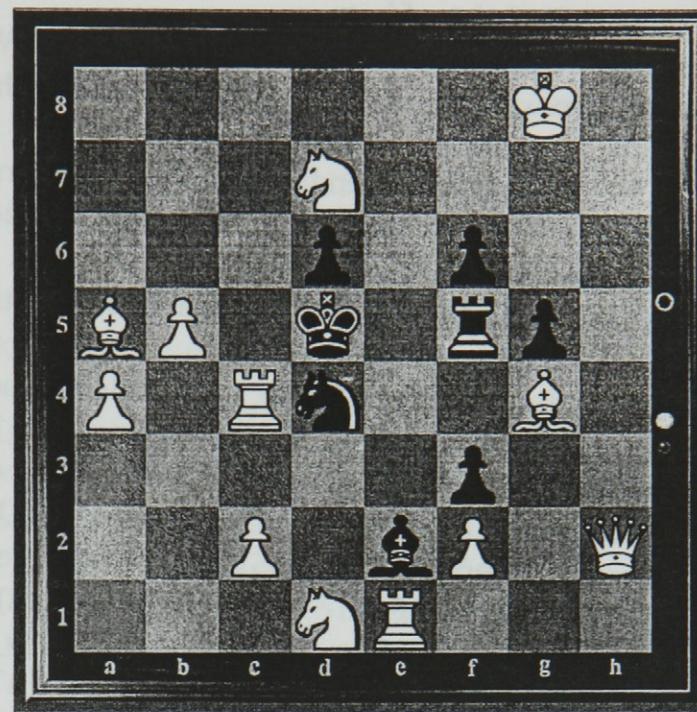
by Pablo Bustos, Law III

For those who are still interested in obtaining information about playing organized chess in the faculty, please contact Marc-Etienne Sicard at sicardm@lsa.lan.mcgill.ca

The problem in this Chess Corner was reprinted with permission of Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., c/o Canadian Manda Group, Toronto, Ontario from 200 CLASSIC CHESS PUZZLES by Martin Greif, ©1993 by Martin Greif.

Solution on Page 15.

White to Play and Mate in Two Moves



Career and Placement Office

NEWSLETTER, JANUARY 18, 2002

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legal placement...
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Hello everyone,

1) RECRUTEMENT DE MONTRÉAL

Vous pourrez vous procurer dès la semaine prochaine la feuille contenant toutes les informations nécessaires en vue du recrutement de cette année: liste des cabinets/organismes participants, nom de la personne à qui adresser votre lettre, adresse et date à laquelle vous devrez déposer votre candidature. Veuillez noter que 3 dates ont été retenues par le Service de placement : les 6, 8 et 15 février prochains. La plupart des cabinets/organismes qui participent au processus de recrutement de cette année seront présents à la Journée

Carrières du 30 janvier. Je vous invite donc à venir les rencontrer en personne afin qu'ils puissent répondre à vos questions.

À cette fin, l'Entente de recrutement est disponible au Service de placement.

2) FIRST-YEAR SUMMER RECRUITMENT IN TORONTO – Clarifications!

CLARIFICATIONS, part II: Let me answer some of the questions you may have: First of all, you do not need an application form. Your cover letter, résumé, transcripts, and exams grades (if applicable) have to be clipped together with a paper clip. No need to use an envelope. No need for an 'original transcript'; a 'student copy' is sufficient. Transcripts can be photocopied. Do not forget to mention your expected date of graduation – month and year -.

Please take note of the Law Society of Upper Canada definition of a 'first year student': first year student means a student enrolled in either the first year of a three year Bachelor of Laws program or the first or second year of a four year Bachelor of Law or combined or joint program. For more information: www.lsuc.on.ca.

CLARIFICATIONS: The Career and Placement Office will receive applications on January 21, noon and then forward them to the firms. For those of you who already sent your applications to the firms: no need to worry! The firms will not discard them. You need to include in your application: a cover letter, your résumé (2 pages); undergrad transcripts (graduate transcripts if applicable; if coming directly from Cegep, your Cegep transcripts); your law transcripts (if in first year: your first term grades - not mandatory but firms look favorably upon the fact that you include voluntarily your exam grades – you have to provide them on a separate sheet). Hope this is helpful. In doubt e-mail me: st-laurent@falaw.lan.mcgill.ca.

A. INTRODUCTION

I have prepared a list of the Toronto firms that have indicated that they plan to hire first -year students. The Law Society of Upper Canada (LSUC) does not govern summer recruitment in areas outside Toronto; consequently, employers in such areas may hire students whenever they wish and the CPO advertises positions as they arrive.

B. PROCEDURES

The LSUC regulates the Toronto summer recruitment process for first-year students. In summary, the LSUC has established the following recruitment dates:

Monday, January 21, 2002, noon
Deadline for applications (must be received by this date at the Career

Placement Office in order to respect the LSUC deadline of Jan. 23)

Friday, February 8, 2002 Call day for arranging interviews (calls start at 8:00 a.m.)

Mon., Feb. 18 – Wed. Feb 20, 2002
Interviews to be held in Toronto

Wednesday, February 20, 2002
Offers can be made after 5:00 p.m.

Related information:

- All students who apply should pick up a copy of the LSUC procedures and be familiar with them (copy available at CPO, on the boards near the cafeteria or on the WEB: www.lsuc.on.ca).

C. FIRMS THAT HAVE CONFIRMED THEY WILL BE HIRING FIRST-YEAR SUMMER STUDENTS

There are not a lot of first-year summer positions in Toronto or other cities for that matter – most are reserved for second years.

Students who plan to apply are welcome to consult the Toronto Summer Law Students 2002 Applicant Information Booklet that was prepared collectively by the law firms for second-year Ontario law students. The book includes one-page profiles on the firms listed below. Some of the contact information has changed since the printing of the booklet; therefore, students should rely on the information I have listed below. The booklet may also be downloaded from www.dwpv.com. All updates and additions to the list below will be posted on the board near the cafeteria.

The following organizations confirmed that they will be hiring first-year summer students:

TORONTO LAW FIRMS RECRUITING FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

FOR SUMMER 2002 Updated at 12/4/2001 10:07 AM

Aird & Berlis LLP
BCE Place, Suite 1800
Box 754, 181 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M5J 2T9
Tel: (416) 865-4638
Fax: (416) 863-1515
Website: www.airdberlis.com
Contact: Ms Sandra Bang, Director of Student and Associate Affairs
E-Mail: sbang@airdberlis.com
Number of First-Year Positions: 2

Bereskin & Parr
40 King Street West, Suite 4000
Toronto, ON M5H 3Y2
Tel: (416) 364-7311
Fax: (416) 361-1398
Website: www.bereskinparr.com
Contact: Ms. Margaret Seko, Student Programme Coordinator
Email: mseko@bereskinparr.com
Number of First-Year Positions: at least 2

Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP
Box 25, Commerce Court West
Toronto, ON M5L 1A9
Tel: (416) 863-4303
Fax: (416) 863-2653
Website: www.blakes.ca
Contact: Ms. Mary Jackson, Director of Legal Personnel
Email: mary.jackson@blakes.com
Number of First-Year Positions: undecided

Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP
44th Floor, 1 First Canadian Place
Toronto, ON M5X 1B1
Tel: (416) 863-6966
Fax: (416) 863-0871
Website: www.dwpv.com
Contact: Ms. Frances Mahil, Director, Student Affairs
Email: fmahil@dwpv.com
Number of First-Year Positions: 1-5

Department of Justice - Ontario Regional Office
130 King Street West, Suite 3400
Exchange Tower
Toronto, ON M5X 1K6

Tel: (416) 973-8221
 Fax: (416) 973-3004
 Website: www.canada.justice.gc.ca
 (go to section of site called
 "Working in the Regions")

Contact: Louise Poulin, Articling
 Co-ordinator
 Email: louise.poulin@justice.gc.ca
 Number of First-Year Positions: 1-2

Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP
 P.O. Box 100
 1 First Canadian Place
 Toronto, Ontario M5X 1B2
 Tel: (416) 367-6759
 Fax: (416) 863-4592
 Website: www.fmc-law.com
 Contact: Farah Jamal, Assistant
 Director, Student Program
 E-Mail: farah.jamal@fmc-law.com
 Number of First-Year Positions: 5-10

Goodmans LLP
 250 Yonge Street
 Suite 2400
 Toronto, Ontario M5B 2M6
 Telephone: (416) 597-4190
 Facsimile: (416) 979-1234
 Website: www.goodmans.ca
 Contact: Ms Catherine Chang,
 Director of Student Programs
 E-Mail: cchang@goodmans.ca
 Number of First-Year Positions:
 undecided

McCarthy Tétrault
 Suite 4700, TD Bank Tower
 Toronto Dominion-Centre
 Toronto, ON M5K 1E6
 Telephone: (416) 601-7630
 Fax: (416) 601-8250
 Website: www.mccarthy.ca
 Contact: Ms Sheena MacAskill,
 Director, Student Programs
 Email: smacaskill@mccarthy.ca
 Number of First-Year Positions: 4-5

Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP
 P.O. Box 50
 1 First Canadian Place
 Toronto, Ontario M5X 1B8
 Telephone: (416) 862.6527
 Facsimile: (416) 862.6666
 Website: www.oslers.com
 Contact: Ms. Michal Pomotov,
 Acting Director, Student Programs

E-Mail: mpomotov@osler.com
 Number of First-Year Positions: 1-5

Accepting applications from students in
 Year 2 of a 4 Year Combined Degree
 ONLY:
 Torys
 Suite 3000, Aetna Tower
 P.O. Box 270
 Toronto Dominion Centre
 Toronto, Ontario M5K 1N2
 Tel: (416) 865-7504
 Fax: (416) 865-7380
 Website: www.torys.com
 Contact: Ms. Sarah L. MacKenzie,
 Director of Recruitment
 E-Mail: smackenzie@torys.com

Number of First-Year Positions: unde-
 cided

3) GOVERNMENT/BOARD ARTICLING POSITIONS

-Canada Industrial Relations Board:
 Articling Positions 2002-2003/2003-
 2004

The Board is seeking two articling
 students, one for each articling year. The
 Board is an independent, representa-
 tional, quasi-judicial tribunal responsible
 for the interpretation and application of
 the Canada Labour Code – Part I,
 Industrial Relations, and certain provi-
 sions of Part II – Occupational Safety
 and Health. The Board carries a mandate
 to contribute to and promote effective
 industrial relations in any work, under-
 taking or business that falls within the
 authority of the Parliament of Canada.
 The Board has jurisdiction in all prov-
 inces and territories with respect to
 federal works, undertakings or business
 covering 700,000 employees in the
 following sectors: broadcasting, char-
 tered banks, postal services, airports and
 transportation, shipping and navigation,
 interprovincial or international transpor-
 tation by road, railway, ferry or pipeline;
 telecommunications; grain handling and
 uranium mining and processing, most
 activities in the Yukon, Nunavut and the
 NW Territories, undertakings of the First
 Nations on Reserves; certain Crown
 corporations. The Legal Services Branch

provides legal advice to Board
 members on the interpretation and
 application of the Code and on
 administrative and procedural law
 issues. It also acts as the Board's
 legal counsel in most judicial review
 proceedings. Articling students
 follow an education plan approved by
 the LSUC. They are interested in
 students with a proven interest in
 labour relations.

Contact: Louise Vaillancourt, Legal
 Secretary
 Canada Industrial Relations Board
 Legal Services
 4th Floor, West Tower
 Ottawa, Ontario
 K1A 0X8
 Tel.: (613) 947-5445
 Fax: (613) 947-5460

-British Columbia Ministry of
 Attorney General: It offers articles at
 its offices in Victoria and Vancouver.
 The Ministry will be interviewing
 soon for positions commencing in
 2003. Students can select rotations
 through areas of practice such as:
 crown counsel, administrative law,
 aboriginal law, family and child law,
 legislative drafting, civil litigation,
 taxation and insolvency, environmen-
 tal law, municipal law, resources,
 constitutional law, contracts, financial
 institutions, health law, private bar.
 Application Questionnaires must be
 received by the Ministry not later than
 4:30pm, Friday, March 1, 2002. To
 obtain the Application Questionnaire:
www.ag.gov.bc.ca/legalservices/student_info/ or at the CPO.

Contact: Diane Barry, Coordinator,
 Articling Program
 Legal Services Branch
 Ministry of Attorney General
 Email: diane.barry@gems2.gov.bc.ca
 Tel : (250) 356-8400
 Fax : (250) 356-0065

Interviews will be held in early May
 2002 in Victoria; by teleconference
 for out-of-province students only. 3
 positions in Victoria; 1 position in

Vancouver.

***Note: the Faculty of Law can arrange videoconferences for interview purposes.

-FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: The deadlines for articling positions are coming up soon. To find out more about the Legal Excellence Program and the deadlines, please check their website: www.lep-pea.ca; click on articling opportunities; choose a region.

- QUEBEC GOVERNMENT: The positions are posted at BAR school.

Je voulais vous laisser savoir que des représentants du Ministère de la Justice du Canada (bureaux de Montréal et d'Ottawa), du Ministère de la Justice du Québec et de la Cour d'appel du Québec ont accepté notre invitation et seront présents à la Journée Carrières du 30 janvier.

4) CLERKSHIPS – New!

- Cour d'appel du Québec: postes de chercheur en droit (clerk): Stages 2003. Cette offre s'adresse à ceux qui entreprennent des études à l'école du Barreau en septembre 2002.

Sous la responsabilité du juge en chef ou de son département, préparer les mémoires sur les faits et les points de droit relatifs aux jugements qui doivent être rendus, analyser les positions des parties, faire état des questions de droit soulevées par les causes, fournir son appréciation lorsque requise quant au mérite des causes entendues ou à être entendues, préparer avant jugement toute la recherche requise soit au niveau de la jurisprudence, de la doctrine ou des lois existantes. Les 6 premiers mois d'emploi sont reconnus par le Barreau du Québec aux fins du stage de formation professionnelle. Le contrat est d'une durée de 2 ans. Traitement annuel : stage de 6 mois (20,735.00\$) ; emploi occasionnel

(18 mois) 33,266 à 35,568.00\$ + majoration du taux de traitement annuel de 11.12% + vacances annuelles. Date limite d'inscription : 22 février. Modalités : Fournir une lettre de présentation, un Curriculum vitae, une liste de 3 répondants et une copie du relevé officiel de notes universitaires. Les entrevues se tiendront en mars pour les postes à Montréal et en avril pour les postes à Québec.

Coordonnées (Montréal):
 Madame Claudine Bisaillon/Stage
 2003 CAM
 Ministère de la Justice
 Direction des ressources humaines
 1, rue Notre-Dame Est/Bureau 8.100
 Montréal (Québec) H2Y 1B6
 Tel. : (514) 393-2072
 Telec. : (514) 873-2526

***Notes : Me Teresa Carluccio de la Cour d'appel sera présente à la Journée Carrières afin de répondre à vos questions. Le JOURNAL DU BARREAU a publié un article intéressant dans le numéro du 15 janvier sur les stages à la Cour d'appel. L'article est affiché sur le babillard près de la cafétéria pour fins de lecture.

- Superior Court of Justice: Please be advised of a change to the Superior Court of Justice 2003/2004 articling program. While the number of articling positions remains the same, one of the positions will now be in Windsor.

- The following courts have upcoming deadlines

In January:
 Federal Court: Jan. 25
 Tax Court of Canada: Jan. 25

Deadline coming up in February:
 Superior Court of Justice – Ontario:
 Feb. 15

5) LL.M. STUDENTS INFORMATION SESSION

The Placement Office will give an information session designed for LL.M. students on Wed. Jan. 23 at 1:30, room, 201.

The winter term has a lot of activities organized or co-sponsored by the CPO that can be of interest to you: The various Careers Fairs, the résumé information session, the Résumé Clinic, etc. Keep your eyes on the activities – even if not under the LL.M. heading!

6) ASSOCIATION DU BARREAU CANADIEN – VISITE À LA FACULTÉ

Le Président national, Me Eric Rice sera à la Faculté pour rencontrer les étudiants et répondre à leurs questions, vendredi le 18 janvier à midi à l'atrium. Pizza fournie par l'Association!

7) SUMMER POSITIONS – In London

- « Denton Wilde Sapte est un cabinet international dont le bureau principal est situé à Londres, dans la City.

Les domaines d'activité dans lesquels le cabinet se spécialise tout particulièrement sont le droit des affaires et du financement, des médias et nouvelles technologies, de l'énergie, des grands projets et de l'investissement.

Notre bureau de Londres offre des stages étudiants ("Vacation Scheme") d'une durée de 2 à 3 semaines, soit entièrement au sein du "Dispute Resolution Department", soit en partie dans ce département et en partie dans un autre département, selon les intérêts des candidats et les places disponibles.

Il s'agit donc de stages relativement courts, mais qui peuvent permettre aux candidats d'observer de près la pratique du droit chez Denton Wilde Sapte, le fonctionnement du cabinet

et de faire des rencontres qui pourront s'avérer utiles, sans compter l'accès au programme de formation continue et de conférences sur divers sujets d'actualité. Un tel séjour pourrait avoir lieu pendant l'été ou durant les vacances de Pâques. Ces postes ne sont pas rémunérés en tant que tels, à l'exception du paiement par le cabinet des frais de déplacement et de repas pour la durée du stage.

Les étudiants désirant postuler pour un poste de "trainee solicitor" (stagiaire) peuvent également assister à l'une des quatre sessions d'information d'une semaine chacune, prévues en juin et juillet prochains. Les étudiants assistant à cette semaine d'information recevront un montant de £250.

Les personnes intéressées sont priées d'envoyer leur Curriculum Vitae, lettre d'intention et relevé de notes à :

Me Sophie Nappert
Denton Wilde Sapte
Five Chancery Lane
Clifford's Inn
London EC4A 1BU UK
Site Web:
www.dentonwildesapte.com

On vous demande d'indiquer quels sujets ou départements vous intéressent de façon particulière. »

8) PART-TIME WORK

-The Faculty of Law, Admissions Office needs students for part-time work: Data Entry. Criteria: Reading comprehension of both French and English; knowledge of Microsoft Acces and Excel; must be either in final year of the undergrad. Program, or in the graduate program, and not expecting to enter another program in the Law Faculty next year; available to work 3-10 hours per week, between 9:00 am and 4:30 pm. Position available immediately. Work available until May. Please hand in your résumé to

Manon Gariépy at the Admissions Office, 3674 Peel St.

9) CAREERS DAYS – Dates & Looking for volunteers

Civil Law – Jan. 30
Careers Without Borders - Feb. 12, 13, 14
Common Law – March 18

C'est une excellente façon de rencontrer les employeurs!

Je cherche des bénévoles qui m'aideront avec le déroulement des diverses activités à l'horaire durant ces journées : installation (29 & 30 janvier), accueil des participants, démontage, coordination et j'en passe... Si vous avez une heure ou deux dont vous pouvez disposer, laissez-le-moi savoir par courriel : st-laurent@falaw.lan.mcgill.ca.

10) LUNCHEON LECTURE SERIES : OGILVY RENAULT

La conférence du mercredi 23 janvier (12:30, local 102) sera intitulée "Demystifying the Practice of a First Year Lawyer in International Arbitration and Mergers and Acquisition / Securities". Les conférenciers seront Marc B. Duquette et Elliot Shapiro pratiquant respectivement dans les domaines en question.

11) MOCK INTERVIEW PROGRAM - A few places left!

In preparation for the upcoming Montreal Recruitment, the Career Placement Office wishes to offer students again this year the possibility to participate in the Mock Interview Program. Students can have a 10 to 15-minute mock interview with a lawyer (McGill Alumnus(ae)), at the interviewer's office, and thereafter receive comments and feedback from the interviewer in order to improve his/her interview skills.

The Mock Interview Program will be

run this year during four consecutive days on February 4, 5, 6 and 7, 2002

To sign-up, drop by the CPO...

12) THE LEGAL HANDBOOK – everything you need to know about legal placement...

On sale at the CPO...

13) EAST/WEST RECRUITMENT STATISTICS

For those of you who participated in the E/W recruitment process and found an articling position: Would you be kind enough to inform me so I can keep my statistics up to date. It will remain confidential. Thank you.

Should you require more information, please contact the Career Placement Office by e-mail: st-laurent@falaw.lan.mcgill.ca / placement@lsa.lan.mcgill.ca or by telephone: (514) 398-6618 / 398-6159

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
PLEASE CONSULT THE BOARDS

Brigitte St-Laurent

IMPORTANT NOTICE RE: NON-LAW CREDITS

Dear First Years,

Please note that the grades you receive in McGill-based courses you take outside of the faculty will count toward your law school GPA.

There was an error regarding this matter in the first year orientation guide distributed by the LSA. The orientation guide stated that the grades you obtain in extra-law credits would not count toward your law GPA. This is not the case. Last year, Faculty Council decided that these grades would continue counting toward law school GPAs, but would not be considered for the purpose of awarding Law Faculty prizes and scholarships, or for the purpose of calculating class ranking.

I am sorry for any inconvenience; if you have any questions, please e-mail me at martamj@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,

Marta Juzwiak, VP Academic.

Solution to the Chess Problem

White moves the Queen on H2 to H7.
Black makes any move.
White mates accord-
ingly.